

On probing assassinations

The new House committee beginning investigations into the various political assassinations has offered hope to many that any coverups will at last be exposed, particularly with the appointment of Richard Sprague as Chief Counsel; however, the public should be cautious for several reasons.

The appointment of Mr. Sprague, regardless of his credentials, does not guarantee that Congress will be able to reveal the true nature of these crimes. The power structure refuses to permit the American people to see the political assassinations in the same context with the Pentagon Papers, Vietnam, Watergate and numerous other affairs which together form an easily perceivable pattern — the gradual erosion of our system of democracy. The political context of the assassinations is overlooked as the news media pretend that we are dealing only with a few "unanswered questions", "loose ends" or "bureaucratic bungling" in the Kennedy and King killings.

Aside from the fact that these murders are essentially unsolved, the most important question unattended is how the coverups have continued for so long and why so many non-investigations have been tolerated. The answer here is probably that various political and economic interests have prevented the full truth from coming out, as is the case with numerous other coverups of the past, including Watergate. In short, the system itself is at fault and this is what the new House committee and Mr. Sprague will have to deal with, a most formidable task.

American citizens should pay close attention to what evolves with this new investigation and this will only happen if the news media treats this issue with the importance it deserves. The real question here isn't so much "who killed Kennedy and King?" as "who runs America?"

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